29th November 1928]

(*g*) whether the Salem District Board passed a resolution condemning the action of the District Board Engineer in this respect; and

(*h*) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government against the District Board Engineer in the matter?

A.—(*a*) Yes.
(*b*) This is the expenditure up to end of March 1928.
(*c*) Yes.
(*d*) & (*e*) The Government have no information.
(*f*) The loss was apparently due to floods.
(*g*) Yes.
(*h*) No.

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—"With reference to the answer to clause (*c*), may I know, Sir, when the work was given on contract, and what made the District Board Engineer to execute the work departmentally?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Because he felt that the contractors were not competent enough to discharge that work."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—"Once a contract has been entered into, will not the Board be liable for damages for breach of contract?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is asking for an opinion."

Nomination of Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandya Nadar as Member and President of the Ramnad District Board.

838. *Q.*—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state with reference to the nomination by the Government of Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandya Nadar, M.L.C., as Member and President of the Ramnad District Board—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that after the demise of the Raja of Ramnad, the District Board of Ramnad expressed to the Government their desire to be given the privilege of election;

(*b*) if so, why the Government decided again in favour of nomination;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Soundara Pandya Nadar is a resident of the Madura district, and that he is the whip of the Ministerialist party;

(*d*) whether the Government made any attempt to secure a competent candidate for the presidentship from among the Mussalmans, Christians or Adi-Dravidas residing in the Ramnad district;

(*e*) whether it is the principle of the Government to treat every sub-caste among the non-Brahmans as a minority community for purposes of patronage; and

(*f*) whether Mr. Soundara Pandya Nadar has had previous experience in the administration of local boards?

A.—(*a*) Yes.
(*b*) To give minority communities a share in the presidentships of district boards.
(*c*) Yes.
(*d*) Yes.

[29th November 1928

(e) No.

(f) Yes. He was a member of the Nilakkottai Taluk Board in the Madura district.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—" May I know, Sir, whether there were no Nadars within the Ramnad district qualified for nomination to the presidentship of the district board ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" A deputation composed of Ramnad district Nadars themselves wanted Mr. Soundara Pandya Nadar to be the president."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know, Sir, the reasons apart from giving representation to minority communities if there are any, why the recommendation of the District Board of Ramnad asking for the right of electing its own president was turned down by the Government ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Because the Government felt it was better to raise an oppressed community."

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" May I know whether during the three long terms of the late Raja of Ramnad the District Board applied for its presidentship being thrown open for election ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I believe there was a resolution even at that time." (Hear, hear.)

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" Was there a Nadars Conference over which the hon. the Minister presided and was given addresses and garlands, etc., before this appointment was made ? "

The hon. the President :—" I am not able to hold that it is connected with this question."

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—" May I know, Sir, if the hon. the Chief Minister is aware of a recent public meeting of Nadars in Virudhunagar, in which a resolution was unanimously passed protesting against the remarks of a certain speaker in a previous public meeting characterising the Nadars as belonging to an oppressed community ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I am not aware of any such meeting."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" In view of the answer of my hon. Friend that it was for the purpose of giving a member of this oppressed community a chance of becoming president of a district board, may I know what are the minority communities for giving a share to whom in the presidentship of district boards this Government decided to nominate to the presidentship of the Ramnad District Board ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" As I have said in answer to (e), the Government possess no such list."

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib :—" I want to know on what basis the majority and minority communities in this province are being treated or classified as such. I want to know whether Government have made any deviation from the ordinary classification of minorities and majorities on the basis of their religion, their backwardness in the matter of educational and other progress ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" As I have said, the Government have no list."

29th November 1928]

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" In view of the answer given by the hon. the Minister, may I know whether, in order to make room for oppressed classes, elections will be postponed for district board presidentships until all the oppressed classes have had their share of nomination ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" My hon. Friend is wrong in his assumption."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know what are the minority communities referred to in clause (*b*) ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" By minority communities I mean the depressed and oppressed communities."

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is a resolution of this House restricting nominations to Mussalmans, Christians and Adi-Dravidas only ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" The resolution does not say Adi-Dravidas, but only other depressed communities, Sir."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know whether the claims of the hon. Member Mr. D. K. Syed Ibrahim Sahib, who crossed the floor recently and who is a Moslem were considered ? If not, why not ? "

Mr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva :—" May I know whether ever since this reform was introduced, a depressed class man or minority community man has been nominated to district board presidentship ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" No."

Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan :—" May I know whether the Government did not take into consideration the population basis on which alone the Government should have thought of either nomination or election ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" As a matter of fact, the Nadar population is almost in a majority in that district."

Representation of the Vannia community on the South Arcot District Board.

*839 Q.—Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names and number of the members of the Vannia community elected to the South Arcot District Board by the several taluk boards in 1928 ;

(*b*) the total strength of the members of that community in the District Board ;

(*c*) what the numerical strength of this community on the District Board was when they nominated Mr. P. K. Ramachandra Padayachi, M.L.C., in October 1928 ; and

(*d*) what were the special reasons for nominating the said Mr. Ramachandra Padayachi, M.L.C. ?